

# \* SOUTHERN CROSS

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## CANADIAN VISITOR

Dr. Earl Treusch, Executive Secretary of the Canadian Lutheran Council, was welcomed by the church during a four-day visit to British Guiana in March. He was on his way to the Lutheran World Federation meeting in Brazil. Dr. Treusch is the Canadian representative on the L.W.F. Committee on Latin America.

In his office with the Canadian Lutheran Council Dr. Treusch takes an active part in the program of coordinating the work of various Lutheran synods in Canada. The synods of the Lutheran Church in Canada still remain part of the United Lutheran Church in America, but may soon organise into a distinct Canadian body. One of Dr. Treusch's major interests has been in planning for the emergence of a Canadian Church.

Dr. Treusch spoke at two public

meetings in Georgetown and New Amsterdam about the Lutheran World Action relief program being carried on in Europe, the Middle East and India. As a result of his several trips to Europe, Dr. Treusch has become a convincing spokesman of the important contribution which the L. W. A. program has made in war-torn refugee areas. He commented on the brutalities of communism in eastern Europe, as well as the strong evangelism impact which was being made through L. W. A. to many non-Christians in such areas as Palestine and Hong-Kong.

It was the first time that many Lutherans in British Guiana had heard first-hand reports of the work of this Lutheran relief agency.

Dr. Treusch showed much interest in the work of the church in rural areas. He saw most of the churches along the coast and the Lower Berbice River.



## LUTHERAN BISHOP FROM INDIA VISITS BRITISH GUIANA

The March visit of Bishop Rajah B. Manikam, head of the 80,000 member Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church in India, and Vice-President of the Lutheran World Federation, gave Lutherans in British Guiana another occasion to meet an important figure in world Lutheranism. Bishop Manikam's visit, coupled with Dr. Fry's a month earlier, added further evidence of the international spread of the Lutheran Church.

## Bishop Rajah B. Manikam — *Continued*

The Bishop was consecrated in 1956 by the Church of Sweden, and became the first Asian ever elevated to episcopal office. He assumed his office following a distinguished record of scholarship abroad and service to his church. The Tamil Church, following the episcopal tradition of the Swedish Church, uses the title of bishop to designate its president.

The Tamil Lutheran Church over which Bishop Manikam presides traces its origin back over 250 years when the first Lutheran missionaries commissioned by the king of Denmark landed on India's southeast coast in 1706. But Christianity in India dates back even further. Tradition says that the Apostle Thomas journeyed to India in the first century, established by Syrian Church which is still in existence today. As Bishop Manikam announced, "we Christians are not foreigners in our land."

Firmly established as the church in India is, it had to meet the challenge of changing times to become what it is today: a missionary church in its own right. In India, said Bishop Manikam, "Christians blazed the trail and poured their life in the nation." Over 600 high schools and universities, 300 hospitals, and the far-reaching influence of the Christian Church toward improving social conditions attest to the great contribution which Christianity has made and continues to make in India.

Today the church in India is more than a mission of a European body. It deserves to be recognised as a missionary church, in fact sends and supports its own missionaries to other Asian countries.

Despite its existence in a land of unparalleled poverty, the Lutheran Church in India has continued to prosper in spiritual vigour and ability to support itself. Bishop Manikam told how laymen throughout the church were developing a serious sense of stewardship, so that today with the exception of limited subsidies for new work the Tamil Lutheran Church is totally self-supporting. Commenting on the self-support program of the church in British Guiana, where by

comparison the living standard is well above India's, Bishop Manikam said "the giving ought to be more." By contrast with the Indian Church, Guianese Lutherans continue to depend for over 75% of their income budget on foreign subsidies, cannot yet meet the basic operating costs of their church.

As a well-travelled spokesman of the Christian Church in India, Bishop Manikam humourously admitted that he found it easier to name the countries he had not visited rather than those he had. Until his recent visit one of the unseen countries in his travels was British Guiana.

During his five-day stay Bishop Manikam met with influential persons of the East Indian community, and visited the church's work in the Corentyne area where a large East Indian population is located. The Bishop was welcomed on the day of his arrival by the Mayor of Georgetown at a public tea and reception given in the Bishop's honour by prominent citizens of that city. A two-day tour of Berbice followed during which the Bishop addressed large crowds at two public meetings at Williamsburg and Skeldon.

At Williamsburg nearly 2,000 persons crowded into the church compound for an evening outdoor meeting to hear the Bishop speak about the church in modern India. Despite nearby celebrations of the Hindu Phagwah Festival the audience listened intently as the Indian churchman warned Guianese Lutherans about the responsibilities of freedom which his own country, independent since 1947, had to learn to face. "We might grow free and very progressive politically, economically, and socially, but a nation cannot be built only on these things," said the Bishop. "Unless we have men and women of character who put God first, my country, your country will not last."

During his visit to Berbice, Bishop Manikam met with church workers at Ebenezer Church, appealed to them to strive toward achieving an independent church through vigorous evangelism. "Christianity is in a much better

## Bishop Rajah B. Manikam — *Continued*

position in India today," said the Bishop, "because she is not identified with any foreign power or ideology; we have learned this lesson and you will learn it soon." He described how the Tamil Lutheran Church has had to learn the lesson of self-support in order to adjust to the Swedish church's five per-cent annual withdrawal of funds, a withdrawal intended to train Indian Christians to assume more share in their church's work.

Today the Tamil Church, ten times bigger than the church in British Guiana, is receiving only half the subsidy of the British Guiana church. Bishop Manikam voiced a plea: "My simple plea is, don't mark time, don't give all attention to yourself, salaries, your own support; the church will only grow by evangelising.

The Tamil Lutheran Church, itself a product of Christian missions and an example of missionary outreach, embodies the ideal of all missionary labour: churches which send as well as receive missionaries. "The most glowing fact about the Christian Church in Asia is that it is becoming a missionary church," said the Bishop. He told how churches in India today are sending Indian missionaries to Indonesia and Africa and parts of Asia. The Tamil

Church itself has missionaries in Burma and Malaya. Bishop Manikam described the outreach of the Asian Church as "a new chapter in the history of missions." He called evangelism the imperative of every Christian. "Now the time has come when the native son and daughter of your church must rise up and carry on evangelism," Bishop Manikam told workers.

Bishop Manikam's comments about the need for a thorough-going desire for independence and greater evangelising effort were well timed to catch the attention of British Guiana Lutherans. With the end of colonial status a near reality, and a favourable political climate uncertain, the church cannot slack in its own effort toward independence.

Much of what Bishop Manikam had to say was not new. But what was significant was that he spoke not as a representative of a mission board but as an emissary from a sister church. In his role as a missionary from a younger church, the Bishop from India gave convincing witness to the "new chapter in missions."

That the new chapter may soon be written in the history of missions in British Guiana should be the goal of every Lutheran.

## Lower Corentyne Parish

### ST. JAMES — WHIM

*Pastor E. B. MEYER*

**Church Compound:** The compound is now filled and levelled. The fence is repaired. As soon as we have rain, there are plans to plant grass and flowers in the yard.

**Light:** The church building now has electric lights. They were installed on Friday, April 1, 1960. The current is supplied by Mr. Cecil Sukdeo, free of charge. We say thank you to Mr. Sukdeo for his kindness.

**Transfers:** Received by transfer namely — Catechist and Mrs. David Lalsingh, Ruth, Martin and Mae Lalsingh and Mr. Singh.

**Confirmation:** Ruth Lalsingh.

*Catechist DAVID LALSINGH*

**Child Baptism:** Dennis Biram-singh, Peter C. Rajgopal, Anita K. Lalsingh.

**Death:** This congregation has lost a good friend in the person of Mr. Friday Bullock, known as "Mamu" who entered the life more abundant on Saturday, March 26, 1960. He is missed by many in the village.

Catechist and Mrs. Lalsingh and family are greatly bereaved by the accidental death of their eldest son, Neville on January 9, 1960. Through this medium, they wish to thank all friends for the many cards and words of sympathy which have been received.

## ST. MICHAEL — ALNESS

Catechist D. LALSINGH

**Church Compound:** This compound now has a new out-look. The fence is made of new chain-link fencing. The

Parish Worker's house has been painted and the yard has been cleaned.

## The Ruimveldt Parish

Pastor H. C. MAGALEE

## Ascension Congregation Moves Onward:

To date we have a membership of fifty communicants and there are twenty-five in confirmation class.

A budget of \$1,200 has been adopted for 1960 and it is gratifying to note that 80% of this amount has been pledged by the school staff.

At the Annual Congregational Meeting a constitution was adopted and the following persons were elected to serve on the Church Council:

Mr. A. B. Ganesh — Vice-President  
Mr. A. B. Chandarpal — Secretary

Messrs. Rudolph Smith  
B. Chinapen  
S. Ramesser  
Maurice Branco

and Mrs. Jane Nelson.

The Council has already met for January and February and has so far made some decisions which, if carried out, will go a far way to improve the work of the Church. Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month.

**Vespers:** The first Vesper Service was held on Sunday night, 7th February, with Catechist Seeram conducting. Thirty-four persons attended the service.

Five new members were admitted on January 31, 1960 and at the same Service the Church Council was installed.

The Sunday School has made another forward stop. Two new classes—a Junior and an Adult class have been created due to the increased attendance. The enrolment is 265. In addition, the school has been divided into two departments. Mr. Alfred Ganesh takes charge of the senior department which meets in the upper flat and Mrs. H. C. Magalee is in charge of the Junior Department on the lower floor.

Catechist S. SEERAM

A weekly report is read at the closing exercises, by the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Mohabir Ramnarine. This report includes — attendance made by each class, visitors in each class, total attendance, decrease or increase in attendance, offering, class which made the highest attendance, class which received the highest offerings and the enrolment, etc.

The Luther League is pursuing a vigorous programme. Foremost in importance among its activities is Bible Study and Lectures. For instructive entertainment arrangements have been made to screen specially selected films.

The League has met five times already for the year and has had an average attendance of 62 adults. The officers for 1960 are:

President — Mr. John Harricharan  
V. President — Mr. Thomas Fredericks  
Secretary — Miss Patricia Henry  
Treasurer — Miss Grace Chichester.

Mr. Ben Chinapen, the supervisor of Youth Activities in the Church envisages a bright future for the League which is indeed satisfying a great need in the community. Miss M. Petersen, Lady Missionary, delivered an instructive Bible Lecture to the League during January.

**Day School:** The day school has been Graded A as from January 1, 1960. It was formerly a Grade C school.

Mr. A. B. Chandarpal (Senior Assistant) has been promoted Deputy Head Teacher and Mr. Mumtaz Khan formerly Assistant Teacher of Redeemer School has been promoted Senior Assistant Teacher.

The following teachers have been added to the staff:

Mr. Seegobin Ragbeer  
Mrs. Margaret Lewis

The Ruimveldt Parish — *Continued*

Mr. Thomas Fredericks

Mr. B. Brown

Miss Helen Solomon

Mr. Milton Abrams.

The enrolment at the end of January stood at 1051.

A garden is in the process of being laid out under the supervision of the Deputy Head Teacher, Mr. A. B.

**LUTHER LEAGUE RALLY**

The Western Berbice District League held its last Rally on March 5th, at Nazareth Lutheran Church. There was a very large gathering from all the Leagues on the Coast.

The office bearers for 1960 are:

N. Ishmael	—	President
C. Budhu	—	Vice-President
E. Morgan	—	Secretary
N. Richardson	—	Executive Members
H. Gopaul	—	Executive Members
Pastor Cox	—	Advisor.

Theme for the Rally was "Which way shall we take?" brought by N. Ishmael, President. In his message he stressed that guidance is promised to everyone. After devotions, leaguers were assembled together for a lecture on the "Five Point Programme" by Pastor Cox. This was briefly discussed,

**Upper East**

ST. MATTHEW

Pastor A. R. BOWEN

Since the beginning of the year, St. Matthew has been badly handicapped by the hard dry weather which causes very little employment, never-the-less, the services were well attended.

Owing to the heavy schedule of our Pastor, we received Communion only once for the past quarter, we do hope to have him every month in the future.

Expression of thanks and appreciation are extended to members and friends for their special gifts which help so much to beautify the church. We do hope more gifts will be given.

**Engagement:** St. Matthew congregation and Luther League offers hearty congratulations to Miss Joyce Fredericks, one of our members and Mr. R. Shaheed of Messiah Lutheran Church, Non Pariel, on their engagement on 28th March, 1960.

Chandarpal.

Mat making and hammock making have been started by the Senior Assistant, Mr. Mumtaz Khan.

The House System has been reorganised. Weekly tests have been started and the Inter-House Cricket and Rounders and Athletic Competitions will be held during the term.

**COAST PARISH**

after which, leaguers promised to practice it in a pronounced way in their respective leagues.

Next came the crowning of Mr. and Miss Luther League. Judges were Miss Fague, Pastor Cox and Mr. A. Gobin. After a few minutes deliberations, Mr. Gobin came out with the results and consequently crowned K. Inderjeet of Good Shepherd Luther League as Mr. Luther League and N. Richardson of Nazareth Luther League as Miss Luther League. Everyone then joined in congratulating them.

Business was then taken, after which, the Rally came to an end. Refreshments were then served, after which everyone departed with the zeal and confidence of making their Leagues a "stronger arm of the church."

**Coast Parish**

— FAIRFIELD

Catechist ALFRED BOURHAN

**Sunday Schools:** The Sunday Schools at the three points continue in their growth. The enrolment is now 140. This is due to the co-operation of the teachers with the Catechist. We would like to have more teachers and we hope more members will volunteer to give their services to the Master.

**Luther League:** During the year we lost seven members who left the district but thanks be to God for the zeal of the members who remained. Because of their sincerity and hard work we were enabled to gain more members than what was lost and so we reached our objective of \$60.00 which was the highest in the Upper East Coast and Buxton Parishes.

The Luther League expresses thanks to all members and friends for their kind assistance. Our League has a strong Cricket Team.

## BEE HIVE PREACHING POINT

Catechist HARRY PERSAUD

This Preaching Point continues to keep the torch burning in bringing light and life to the community in making Christ known to all people.

By the grace of God an amount of \$20.00 has been paid in the first quarter

toward Self-Support.

We do hope and pray that the members will catch the vision of Christian giving and in living a life unto the Lord.

## Buxton Parish

## SALEM — BACHELOR'S ADVENTURE

Pastor A. R. BOWEN

This congregation is on its onward march toward the evangelism of souls and the stewardship plan of the church.

The first quarter apportionment of \$80.00 has been paid in full.

**Adult Baptism:** Miss Darmattee Sooklall.

**Infant Baptism:** Martin Resaul Maraj, Edward Joseph, Jean Chan-

Catechist R. L. SINGH

drowti Budhram, Janet Madhuri Budhram, Regina Badal.

**Sunday School:** A series of Sunday School open-air meetings are being carried out in the various yards at Golden Grove on Sunday afternoons by the Catechist. Many children are being exercised by these meetings.

## MESSIAH — NON PARIEL

Catechist JOHN ABDOOL

**Stewardship:** The meaning of the word "Stewardship" is becoming well known to our members. This can be seen by the fact that the congregation's budget is increasing. The members have pledged more than ever before and we feel confident that God is leading us in a venture of faith.

By His help we have been enabled to pay in full our first quarter apportionment of \$94.00.

**Wedding:** Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Moniram on their marriage on 11th January, 1960 at Messiah Lutheran Church.

We pray God's blessings for a happy married life.

**Special Service:** A special service was held on 15th February, 1960 in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Gebert, parents of our Treasurer, Pastor D. R. Gebert. The church was filled to capacity. Pastor A. R. Bowen preached a fitting and inspiring sermon. Mr. and Mrs. Gebert expressed thanks for the fine service.

**Sunday Schools:** Our Sunday Schools are progressing remarkably and

the teachers are doing well. The Sunday School teachers are: Catechist John Abdool, Messrs. Christopher Kimraj, James Rattansingh and Rohit Persaud.

**Luther League:** Once more we paid in full our objective of \$30.00. Our Evangelism and Stewardship programs are progressing and the members must be congratulated for their good efforts.

The 1960 officers are Mr. Christopher Kimraj, President; Mr. Aaron P. Boodhai, Vice-President; Mr. Motilall, Secretary; Mr. Moniram Chaitoo, Assistant Secretary; Mr. Joseph Ram, Treasurer; Catechist John Abdool, Advisor.

Our League is noted for having a strong Volley Ball team. Recently we defeated Fairfield, Pln. L. B. I., Plaisance and many other teams. We stand unconquerable and are quite ready to face any challenge.

We praise God for the accomplishments in the past and we continue to pray for His blessings and guidance during this year.

## SADHU SUNDAR SINGH — TRIUMPH

## Catechist A. A. KOWLESSAR

The members of this congregation must be commended for their co-operation and Christian responsibilities. After realizing the heat in the church in past years they decided and installed two windows at a cost of \$126.00. This amount was realized, all by their own free-will offering.

Now that the church is much cooler it helps everyone to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. We express our thanks to each and every one who assisted.

A Preaching Mission was held during Holy Week. The theme was "The Cross — What does it mean to you?" The preachers were:

Monday — Catechist A. A. Kowlessar —  
"The Character of Judas versus the Cross." Luke 22:3, 4.

Tuesday — Pastor A. R. Bowen —  
"The unveiled glory of God" 2 Cor. 3:13.

Wednesday — Cat. A. A. Kowlessar —  
"The unavoidable Christ of the Cross." Matt. 27:24

Thursday — Catechist J. R. Singh —  
"The Cross a symbol of Sacrifice."

Good Friday was observed with a three hour service from 12 noon to 3.00 p.m. Preachers were:

Catechist A. A. Kowlessar (1) "The Word of Mercy" Luke 23:34.

Mr. Wilfred Ramlall (2) "The Word of Salvation." Luke 23:43.

Mr. Richard Melville (3) "The Word of Farewell." John 19:26, 27.

Mr. Anthony Bacchus (4) "The Word of Hell." Matt. 27:46.

Catechist David Debrah (5) "The Word of Life." John 19:28.

Mr. A. R. Nazam (6) "The Word of Atonement." John 19:30.

Catechist A. A. Kowlessar (7) "The

Word of Victory." Luke 23:46.

Easter was celebrated with Holy Communion. The message of life and power in the Risen Lord was brought by Pastor A. R. Bowen.

**Baptism:** Received by the rite of Infant Baptism were: Daisy Bridjet, Donna Mariea, Claudette Dianne Kathleen and Leonard Jerome Clifton.

**Wedding:** Our heartiest congratulations are extended to Miss Rita Tulia Ram and Mr. Sirilall Kishun who were joined in holy wedlock on Easter Monday, 18th April, 1960. May God bless them in their union.

**Apportionment:** By the help of Almighty God the first quarter Apportionment has been paid in full. For these and all other blessings we thank and praise Thee O Lord.

**Luther League:** On Saturday, 26th March, 1960 Sadhu Sundar Singh Luther League was host to the East Demerara Luther League Rally. The theme was, "Put on the whole Armour of God." A fitting sermon was preached by Mr. A. R. Nazam. Mr. Rudolph Singh was liturgist.

Miss Ruth Zartman our lady missionary led the group in Bible Study from the 6th Chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians. Miss Zartman must be highly commended for the simple method of approach in which she brought out the points of the warfare of spirit-filled believers and the methods to overcome them.

The Rally was honoured with a guest speaker in the person of Mr. A. H. Moore a Master of Queens College who spoke on "Lutheran Theology." Mr. Moore in a simple and forceful manner touched on many important points. We extend to Mr. Moore our hearty thanks.

## ST. ANDREW — LE RESSOUVENIR

## Catechist A PERSAUD

Someone stood on the Public Road and looking at St. Andrew Church building said, "Look how peacefully she sits; yet one can feel her power as she bears witness to Christ her Master

in this largely heathen community; truly, she is God's Light House here."

From 1941 to date she has been served by six Pastors and fourteen Catechists. None seemed to have

## St. Andrew — Le Ressouvenir — *Continued*

stayed long enough to consolidate this growing work. But, with a Parsonage on the compound and her own resident Pastor much is anticipated here. This place could become one of the strongest Lutheran community in the entire British Guiana.

With the opening of the School a year ago the Sunday School has averaged well over one hundred and fifty per week. Our teachers here seem to have the correct outlook as to the purpose of a Christian school. They set the example of service to their Lord and whether it rains or shines they are here on Sundays to carry out their duties.

They have taken on the Easter Program as their responsibility and

will surely make a success of it.

**Baptisms:** Joan Basmatie Govindan, Richard Jaikarran, Eileen Seetaram, Theresa Persaud, Sandra Vidwatie Persaud.

**Adult Membership:** Mr. Norman Edwards Govindan and Mrs. Lakhanie Edwards Govindan.

**Congratulations:** Our congratulations go out to the Misses Doreen Seeram and Rajdai Ramlall on acquiring the Pupil Teacher's Certificate and on their appointment to St. Andrew Lutheran School also to Miss Indrawatie Persaud for acquiring the Primary School Leaving, the Sewing and the School Gardening Certificates all at one shot.

## WEST COAST WOMEN'S LEAGUES

The West Coast Women's Leagues had an excursion on the 14th December, 1959.

Two buses filled with members from the West Coast Berbice Women's Leagues arrived at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Campbellville, where we were greeted by Rev. and Mrs. Hector C. Magalee. A few Christmas carols were sung, and Mrs. Harvis, the organist, welcomed members heartily. We had our lunch in the spacious school building. After lunch we were treated with refreshing Pepsi-Cola just from the "fridge."

At noon we again joined the bus for the round-the-town tour. The pilot for this tour was the Rev. Magalee, who led the buses by driving with his car in front. A few ladies were in the buses to answer any questions that may be asked. We were taken to the Continental Biscuit Factory and were met by the manager who politely explained to us the mixing and working of the machines.

Our next visit was to the Shirt Factory and we were shown around here too. We were shown the electric knife in operation. This can cut eight hundred shirts at one time. Also the clamp can cut eighty collars at one time. Each person has his own piece of work to do. Also we saw the furniture factory.

Our next visit was to Fogarty's store and we were entertained on the third floor by the manager who said that it was a pleasure to have us and he hoped that it wouldn't be our last visit because he always would like to welcome us.

Mrs. Sara Lou Carter was there and she did a bit of modelling for us in a variety of hats in which she looked charming. Two ladies from the staff modelled Elite shirts, dusters and a bathing suit.

We were then treated with three-tiered frosted ice cream and refreshing Pepsi-Colas. Father Christmas made his closing speech and the women were taken down in the elevator.

Pastor Magalee then took us to the beautiful Calvary Church with its attractive brick work beautifully designed. There we were greeted by Rev. and Mrs. Hansen. The children's choir sang a carol for us. Our last visit was to the Ruimveldt School. This is a beautiful and spacious school with very good accommodations for its pupils. Pastor Magalee said "good-bye" to us, and said it was indeed a privilege to be with us and this was a link to draw us together into fellowship with one another.

We are grateful to Pastor and Mrs. Magalee for the wonderful outing.